

swna **SOUTHWESTER**

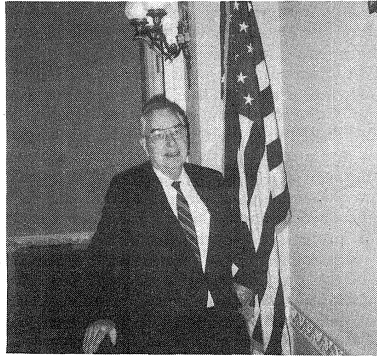
ESTABLISHED 1964

A Monthly Non-Profit Publication of The Southwest Community Council, Inc.

SERVING THE ENTIRE SOUTHWEST/SOUTHEAST ANC 2D AREA

Partially Supported By the SW/SE ANC With District of Columbia Tax Revenues
Staffed Entirely By Volunteers

MARCH 1990



DALE MacIVER **THE PULSE OF** **SOUTHWEST**

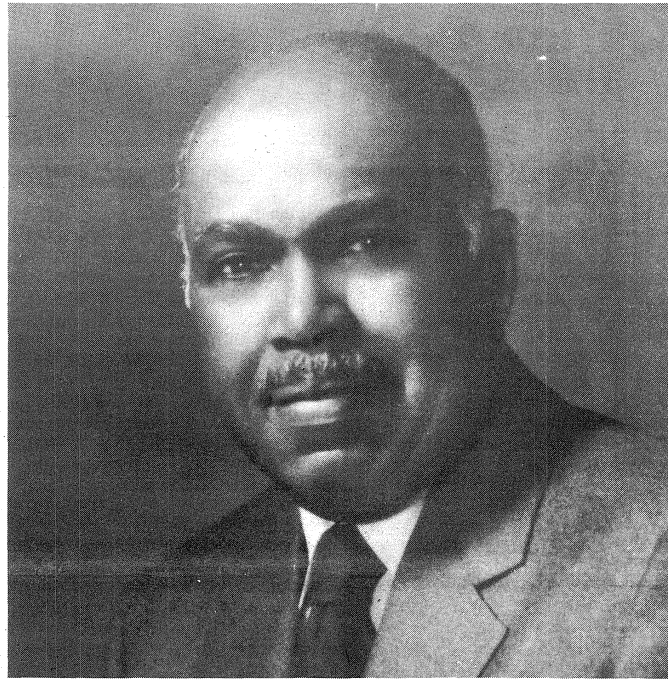
Dale MacIver resigned in December after almost 12 years in the volunteer job as editor of *The Southwester*. Gilbert (Rick) Leggett is now the editor. MacIver will continue to contribute to the paper. He will still be snapping pictures in likely and unlikely places and gathering information of interest to our varied community.

When MacIver became editor in the summer of 1978, the paper consisted of eight pages (sometimes less) of letter-size paper. In May 1980 *The Southwester* was changed to the present newspaper-type publication. This made it possible to print much more news, advertising, and pictures at a cheaper price. The end result of efforts by MacIver and by advertising saleswoman Dottie Albera (another volunteer), was that *The Southwester* became self-supporting, including paying for door-to-door delivery to residences. Volunteers continued to distribute to non-residential addresses and to residences where door-to-door delivery was not permitted.

MacIver is employed as an attorney by the D.C. Committee of the House of Representatives. He came to Washington from Minnesota in 1963 to work for Congressman Donald Fraser, who authored the Advisory Neighborhood Commission Provision in the Home Rule Act. His journalism training comes from extra-curricular experience as editor, or contributor in junior high school, high school, and college newspapers.

Not only has MacIver put in a tremendous amount of time on *The Southwester* (he estimates 30-40 hours per month—probably a gross under estimate), but he is also active in his church, Westminster Presbyterian, and is involved with Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Club No. 4. One year the Club honored him as "Father Of The Year."

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BENSON L. DUTTON: **AN ENGINEERING TRAILBLAZER**

by Thelma Jones

Long before Penn State University had awarded a civil engineering degree to Benson L. Dutton, it was evident that his destiny spelled success. As a child Benson was always intrigued by toy erector sets and train sets. His fascination for adventure and nature led him to become a Boy Scout. It was these qualities, coupled with his insatiable appetite for science and excellent grades in math, that manifested his destiny to become the engineering pioneer who would help to revolutionize the field of engineering and become a trailblazer in engineering and engineering education for many blacks.

Raised and educated in Philadelphia, PA, Benson L. Dutton was born on January 7, 1910. His parents were devout Episcopalians, a faith that he still embraces today. Upon graduation from high school in 1928 he worked for a year with a Penn State alumnus who subsequently persuaded him to take the entrance exams for Penn State. On the first visit he fell in love with the college's campus, and he has been a loyal friend and advisor of Penn State ever since, receiving the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1971.

When Dutton graduated from Penn State in 1933, he was the first Black to receive a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. At the age of 26, Dutton accepted his first "major engineering project" as a project

engineer for the Civilian Conservation Corps in Gettysburg, a task he held throughout the depression. In 1947, Dutton accepted a faculty position at the prestigious Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) in Hampton, VA.

At Hampton, Dutton became part of the war effort as instructor-in-charge of engineering fundamentals for the recently established Naval Training Station at Hampton. While at the Naval Training Station, Dutton organized and taught some of the nation's premier interracial and coed classes. Noting the challenge, Dutton stated that "these classes demonstrated the feasibility of bi-racial education. In Virginia, and furthermore demonstrated that gender is no barrier to pursuing a career in the engineering profession."

In 1942 Dutton had become the first Black registered civil engineer in Virginia. He subsequently completed a professional graduate degree in Civil Engineering in 1949. Convinced that others could benefit from his efforts, Dutton wrote a thesis entitled "A Study and Proposal for Establishing a School of Engineering at Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State College" (Nashville, TN). In 1948 Dutton was summoned to organize a school of engineering at Tennessee State University, using his Penn State thesis as a basis. He

Cont. Page 2

THE SOUTHWESTER

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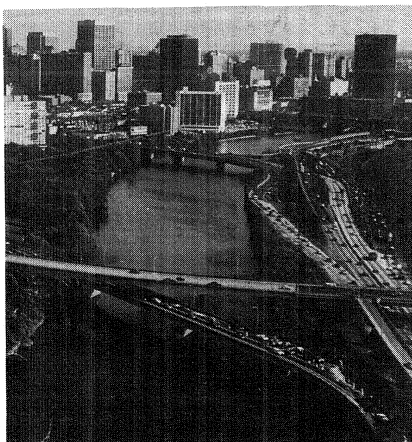
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Spring Garden Street Bridge designed
by Benson L. Dutton in 1956

Dutton Cont. From Page 1

became the school's first dean and the state's first black registered civil engineer.

Never one to shy away from a challenge, Dutton became the Chief Design Engineer for Bridges for the City of Philadelphia in 1956, a position he held for nine years. During this period, Dutton accomplished his "proudest engineering achievement" by designing the Spring Garden Street Bridges over the Schuylkill river, a \$3.8 million project. This project, affecting the welfare of several agencies, did not succeed without controversy. But Dutton knew how to take the punches and blows, a skill he acquired on Penn State's Varsity boxing team and subsequently as boxing coach at Hampton Institute. Despite the controversy, Dutton masterfully engineered a design that was "both sound and aesthetically pleasing."

Dutton returned to education in 1965 accepting a management engineering position with the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. He subsequently became the director of the Office of Federally assisted Construction in 1970 and served in this capacity until his retirement in 1975.

THE SOUTHWESTER NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Volunteer positions as reporters, layout artists, wordprocessors, proofreaders, and distributors are available at *The Southwester*. Experience is a plus but not necessary, and hours are flexible.

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Today, Dutton is building another bridge by connecting deserving youth in the Southwest Washington D.C. community to summer employment positions. A long time member of the Youth Activities Task Force, an auxiliary to the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA), Benson served as the Task's Force Administrator in 1988, a role which civic colleagues stated that he executed with diligence and thoroughness. More recently, he was instrumental in helping to inspire the establishment of the Crime & Drug Task Force, another auxiliary of the SWNA. Although retired he still hasn't totally "hung up the gloves." In his spare time he volunteers with professional engineering organizations and the United Way. He also takes great pride in writing the historical project on the "History of Blacks in the U.S. Navy for the Naval Historical Center at the Washington Navy Yard."

A long-time friend summed it up appropriately when he stated that, "...Benson provides us with an example of an engineer who used his skills both inside and outside his profession for the benefit of all." In recognition of his meritorious service, Dutton has received numerous awards, citations, and letters of commendation for his dedication, and commitment to the field of engineering and engineering education.

The Southwest community salutes its own Benson L. Dutton, P.E. FASCE, a living legend. He is indeed a model of leadership and dedication worthy of emulation. In honor of Black History the Southwest Branch Library will have an exclusive pictorial chronology exhibit through March 1 of the erection of the Spring Garden Street Bridge.

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MacIver Cont. From Page 1

MacIver is particularly concerned about Southwest youth. He utilizes their talents by publishing their poetry, sports stories, and other writings. He has taken groups camping, and golfing at Hains Point, and bowling at Bolling Airforce Base. It is important to MacIver that students stay in school. He helps students apply to college, prodding them to do the necessary paperwork in a timely manner. He has also taken groups to visit colleges and college fairs.

In November 1984 *The Southwester* was honored by the Federation of Civic Associations as "Outstanding" and Washington Post trophies were awarded to MacIver as editor, and to Thelma Jones as president of the sponsoring organization--the Assembly. At the 25th Anniversary Dinner of the Assembly in November 1988, MacIver, as editor of *The Southwester*, was one of three award recipients.

Rick Leggett, the new editor, has a hard act to follow, but his youthful enthusiasm and editorial experience indicate that he, too, will do a superb job in his own way, as have the previous editors in the 26 years of the paper's existence.

SWNA/ANC

SWNA HOLDS ANNUAL ELECTION

Annual elections for the Board will be held Friday March 23, 3-9 p.m. and Saturday March 24, 9-5 p.m. in the Safeway lobby.

Clara Brewer (484-8692), Jean McDonald (554-0524), and Elysse Smith are on the Nominating Committee and are inviting people to run for the Board. New people move to our area each year, and others decide annually they are ready to help in the community. Please come forward and nominate yourself or a friend. We will find time to do this activity for you.

The Election Committee is chaired by Carol Early (488-3355). She is recruiting people to manage the polling place and count the ballots. Please contact her if you'd like to help.

The Black History Program at Jefferson Junior High School was the February program of the Southwest Assembly. The next meeting of the Assembly will be the Annual Meeting, to be held on March 29. At that time the new Board will be installed and there will be a report on the year's activities.

ACE SECURITY MEETING

There will be an ACE Security meeting, Tuesday, March 13, at 10:00 a.m. at 1005 5th Street, S.E. in the Multipurpose Center Room.

1990 CANDIDATES FOR SWNA ELECTION

PRESIDENT

MARGARET FELDMAN

Retired professor of education and social work. Organized River Park's 25th Anniversary Celebration. Interested in working on problems our neighbors identify with, and toward wider community participation in the changes coming to our neighborhood with Metro, new senior residence and perhaps loss of EPA. Ms. Feldman is currently President of SWNA.

VICE PRESIDENT

EDGAR MEAD

Retired economist. Former Director of Public Transportation for New Hampshire. Feels Metro needs better feeder access. Concerned about EPA/DOT moves, without local inputs. Concerned about deteriorated housing with attendant drug/alcohol problems. Mr. Mead is currently the Vice President of SWNA.

SECRETARY

NO CANDIDATES

DISTRICT 1

WILLIE LLOYD REEVES

Presently serves as Chair of SW/SE Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D. President of Employee's Union at Federal Communications Commission.

DISTRICT 2

DAVID S. BREWER

Southwest resident. Graduate of St. Augustine College in Raleigh, North Carolina.

CHARLES HARGRAVE

Southwest resident since 1962. Past President of SWNA. Past Chair, 1st District Police Advisory Council. Will work for an independent SWNA, yet interdependent with other area organizations.

JEFF MASON

Project Director of Smart Start, a teenage pregnancy prevention program. Enjoys living in cosmopolitan Southwest. Would like to see more businesses in Waterside Mall.

DISTRICT 3

WALTER BROOKS

Harbour Square Resident. Member of Youth Activities Task Force. Very active in the Southwest community.

CAPTAIN LUCIA RAPLEY

Presently a SWNA Board member. Earned RN. M. Ed. at Howard University. "From our beginning the pattern of this beautiful Southwest community has been emerging from the impact of a diverse microcosmic growth of our extended area."

DISTRICT 4

LAVONNIA JOHNSON

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AT LIBRARY



1989 Scholarship Recipients

Application forms for grants to college students from the Southwest Scholarship Fund are available at the S.W. Branch Library, 920 Wesley Place, S.W.

SWNA Scholarship Fund Grants are open to any resident of near Southwest D.C. north of the Anacostia River in zip code 2024.

Last year 17 students shared \$7,000 to use for college expenses. Scholarships are awarded to undergraduate students residing in the Southwest community who are attending or have been accepted for admission to an accredited college or university or other accredited postsecondary institution. Grants help defray the costs of books, lab fees and other incidental costs.

Application deadline is May 1, 1990. Applications must be accompanied by an acceptance letter from the college or university the applicant expects to attend, or proof that he or she is currently enrolled. Letters of recommendation are also required.

Fundraising by the Scholarship Committee will include various special events. Donations can be made by mail to: SWNA Southwest Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 70481, Wash., D.C. 20024. Checks should be made out to S.W. Community Council Inc. Funds are deposited to the tax-exempt S.W. Community Council and awarded to students during the summer. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Ms. Francine Vinson continues as Chair of the Scholarship Committee.

ANC 2-D MEETING

The next meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2-D will be on Monday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 Eye Street, S.W. All are welcome.

Dr. Rice To Chair YATF

Southwest resident Dr. Beryl C. Rice was unanimously selected to be the new chair of the Youth Activities Task Force (YATF), succeeding Walter Brooks. Dr. Rice a resident of Southwest since 1971, is an Associate Professor at the University of the District of Columbia Department of Social Work and Social Welfare. She was formerly active with the Friends of Southwest Youth and serves on the boards of the YWCA of the National Capital Area and of the USA. Dr. Rice joined the YATF last year and worked on the needs Assessment Study conducted last summer and fall.

Jenny & Henry Liu



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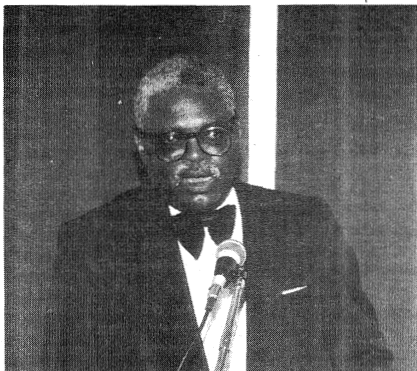
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PEOPLE IN SOUTHWEST

THROUGH THE EYES



LEON FIELDS THE HEART AND SOUL OF SOUTHWEST

by Gilbert Leggett

Leon Fields is a man who truly loves the Southwest community. He is a man of great courage, strength and dedication. There is probably no measurement equal to his concern for the people of Southwest, especially the kids. He cares not only about his people, the blacks here, but he cares about all the residents of this diverse community.

If Alex Haley captured the hearts of Black Americans with *Roots*, and if James Brown reigns as the 'soul' of Black people, then Leon Fields combines the true spirit of both worlds.

He is our griot-storyteller, a walking encyclopedia of Southwest D.C. history. Seen through the eyes of this very special individual is all of the changes, dreams and frustrations in which has occurred here.

Mr. Fields grew up in Southwest during urban renewal, on McClain Avenue, in front of the park now known as Greenleaf Playground. "Then it was called Hoover playground, named after J. Edgar Hoover. It was segregated from blacks even though no whites used the park. My mother's house was snatched from us because then we didn't have any constitutional rights, nor knew anything about class action suits. So it left everything in disarray, disrupting the lives of good neighbors who lived in harmony. Then everybody was poor, both whites and blacks, the economy was poor," Fields explains.

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Fields reflects that, "All we wanted was an opportunity to live where we wanted to. Whites lived across the street from us and they were our friends. Blacks owned their own businesses. Fourth Street, S.W. was the main street from Maryland Avenue up to Fort McNair. Thriving store front businesses were on both sides of the street, with either Jewish owners or black owners. Buzzard Point was a horse graveyard where the buzzards from the waterfront use to congregate, thus dubbing the area with its name, so I'm told. Tiber Island was a little island and Canal Street was a canal up to the Capitol."

Urban Renewal

Expounding on urban renewal and the Redevelopment Land Agency (RLA), Fields describes, "Urban renewal uprooted everybody and their business. Congress earmarked Southwest because of its close proximity to the Capitol. They felt this area was a menace with no roots. They came in with bulldozers demolishing all the rundown houses except the Colonial type homes such as the Law House, Wheatly Row House and Berry Neighborhood House, which were all segregated. Their was no urban renewal from 1st Street back to South Capitol. It went from Delaware Avenue on back to the monument. The RLA took our homes, which of course we did not own, placing my mother and many others in Southeast at a public housing complex called Knox Terrace, replacing homes with government buildings.

The head man for the RLA was James Banks who was a thorn to blacks because he wasn't sensitive to our needs. He broke up families and our spirits. My grandmother had friends living with her, then urban renewal came along and split that up. Many people died by the trauma caused by being relocated to public housing in Northeast. Anytime you uproot plants, they die don't they? We had no legal means to combat the racism and no one was concerned for our well being. They didn't realize the heritage being removed. Many people don't know that the famous Al Jolson used to live right here on 'N' Street, S.W. Things were dropped on us and we had to accept that. We had no pride because we were given things. No black names were associated with developments to promote a positive image.

For instance Greenleaf was named after James Greenleaf, a slave owner. He owned most of all the land in Southwest. He bought the property from George Washington, they even had a Greenleaf School for whites named after him. Fort McNair was originally Greenleaf Point.

Daniel Carrollsborg, another slave owner has a complex named after him. In 1970, Mayor Washington proclaimed Hoover Park to be named Greenleaf Park, and finally we got the Recreation Center named in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

1968 Riots

"We were called into this big meeting, Sam Jefferson and I. They thought I was going to start the kids to rioting. So they asked us to keep them from tearing up everything and protect the community. So we did. Most people don't know that either."

SAY 'NO' TO DRUGS!

The Assembly

Speaking about the Assembly, he states, "The Assembly really was formed in 1955. It was called the Greenleaf Recreation Advisory Council. Community leaders such as Joe Lattimore and Neil Pierce who worked in the White House came together with other civic leaders at Greenleaf. The key issue was public swimming pools. I remember there were three or four pools built for whites, one was on Deleware Avenue for River Park residents. It had an iron bar fence around it. Black kids had to go to East Potomac or Banneker to swim. At night the kids would swim in River Park pool as disgruntled whites complained. There was another pool at 4th and 'G' Streets, that kids use to bombard with bricks. They were disenchanted because whites would be laying around under their umbrellas while black kids looked on sweating under the beaming heat. Soon after, a pool was constructed at Randall Playground for them. The two groups came together, the Southwest Community Council which raised funds and the Assembly which dealt with community issues."

Drug Problem

"You got to have progress you can see. Get materials out, flood the neighborhoods with 'Drugs Kill' T-shirts, at least kids will see it. You can't have meetings in public housing filled with police officers, the real hardcore guys who can stop the problem don't want to be identified with the police. They will not come to the meetings. Our folk don't have anyone they have confidence in. You can't give up on any of them. The ones you give up on are probably the leaders. Nice kids or boy scout kids will listen to police but the hardcore kids are not. When do you ever see ministers going out into the community? Even the national or local drug czars are people who've never even been around drugs.

Another problem is that you've got some big shot congressmen making a hundred thousand dollars a year, making decisions about minimum wages. No one can make it on \$3.65 an hour, inflation will eat that up. That's why kids think selling drugs is the only way he can make it. You can't have rich people making decisions about poor people's problems, that doesn't make any sense.

About Mr. Fields

"I believe in sharing what little we got, food or whatever. I feel that everybody has talent. If you were born you got talent. This community is a 'Tale of Two Cities,' the have and have nots. We're integrated racially but segregated economically. Third Street, S.W. is the dividing line -- the Berlin Wall. People shouldn't frown on those less fortunate.

I loved to swim growing up. High diving and underwater swimming were my favorites. I attended Bowen Elementary School, Randall Junior High School and Armstrong High School.

I'm the father of eight children, and ten grandchildren.

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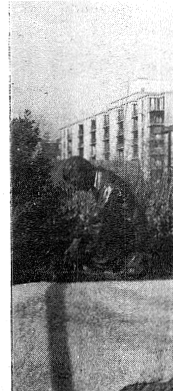
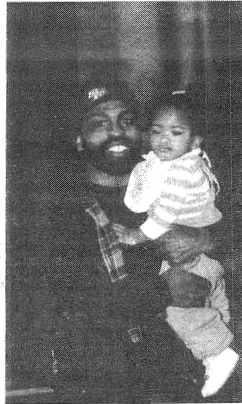
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INSIDE SOUTHWEST

SOUTHWEST PHOTO ESSAY



Smile...
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COMMUNITY

SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY HOUSE REDEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN

Southwest Community House Board President, Loretta Reeves, announced the House's Redevelopment Campaign. "The Southwest Community House is at the threshold of new beginnings," stated Ms. Reeves, "...and we need at least \$40,000 seed money for new staff and programs, and to put the House on a secure financial footing."

The Southwest Community House has been the lifeline for thousands of people, bringing them some relief from the effects of poverty, crime and illegal drugs for over 88 years. This community based social service agency has been and continues to be effective in reaching out to troubled youth, providing outreach services to homebound seniors, assisting with emergency needs of food, clothing, housing and employment, and conducting programs to meet the needs of our neighbors who have fallen on hard times.

The Southwest House has overcome a serious financial liability and has maintained a strong presence in the community in spite of many difficulties. Community people have rallied around the House to strengthen its organization and management. With funding from the United Planning Organization already in place and anticipating partial funding from the United Way in July, there still needs to be raised monies for salaries and program costs not fully covered by these funding agencies. In addition, accounting and legal fees covering the past three years are still outstanding.

Ms. Reeves hopes that the community residents, businesses and organizations will rally around this most important community asset and support the redevelopment fund drive. Donations payable to: The Southwest Community House: Redevelopment Fund may be sent c/o Fr. Norman Haddad, 630 'E' Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024.

S.W. RESIDENT NOMINATED BY PUBLICATION



Joy Majied

Southwest resident Joy Majied, Director of the Washington Parent Group Fund (WPGF) has been nominated by the *Minorities and Women in Business* publication as one of their "Women Who Make A Difference."

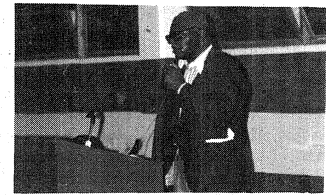
Ms. Majied, former Amidon Elementary School PTA president, has made enormous contributions through her work with WPGF and the Choral Arts Society.

WPGF is a support group that has supplied some 750 educational enrichment projects in 66 schools throughout the District. First Lady Barbara Bush is the honorary chairperson for the organization.

Also, Ms. Majied has worked significantly in fundraising for the Choral Arts Society and the Bowen YMCA.

Selections will be announced in the publication's January/February 1990 issue.

The *Southwester* and the entire Southwest community congratulates Ms. Majied and wishes her luck.



Fields Cont. From Page 4

Leon became Director of Southwest Police Boys Club and the Youth Development Program for Southwest. He was the first community organizer of the Southwest House and one of the original members of the Southwest Neighborhood Alumni Association. He has won countless awards, most notably the induction into the D.C. Amateur Athletic Football Hall of Fame in 1977. His list of achievements would fill a library and are far too many to list.

Fields would eventually like to see the Recreational facilities brought up to par, i.e. the maintenance of lights on fields and playgrounds.

Also, he has a vision of Syphax Elementary School becoming a "Neighborhood Developmental Center," where kids can go to build skills, earn GED's, learn about business, and most importantly build self-esteem. Fields believes that, "Kids shouldn't have to leave their community to get a GED. Also, free enterprise has been cut off. This country was built on the principle that a person can sell tomatoes on the corner if he wants. Five guys who can paint can start a company and bid on these contracts. Give kids alternatives, like starting their own businesses. We need seed money so all kids can make money for themselves legally."

Personally, I like a man who calls a spade a spade and holds back no punches. It's difficult not to relate to the dual feelings of pride and frustration that Leon feels after talking with him, an experience everyone should be blessed with at least once. Surely the kids of this area can absorb the heritage and struggle that is revealed through this man. What he knows about Southwest is invaluable. We all can benefit from and appreciate knowing where we've been, thus we'll understand where we're going. He knows the truth that has been hidden from us and the wrong that needs to be corrected. There is certainly nothing wrong with truth, we can only learn and grow from it. I only hope and pray that we will. Let's start by taking a suggestion from Mr. Fields. Give one hour a day volunteering to help develop a child's positive self-image. I guarantee that you won't regret it.

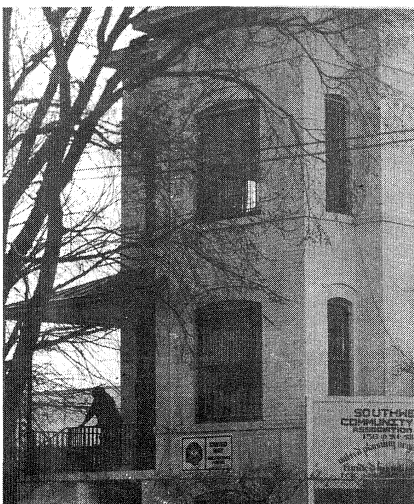
NEWS FROM PORTAL SITE PROJECT

When the Redevelopment Land Agency turned over development of the Portal Site at 14th and D Streets, S.W., they required PDA, the developers to prepare a Community Participation Plan. That plan is now in the process of being put into effect.

As a first step, PDA invited representatives of the Assembly, the Youth Activities Task Force, Southwest House, and ANC 2D to a meeting in December. Requirements were discussed, in addition to an agreement to convene again in February.

In the meantime, community participants met to discuss the desirability of establishing an umbrella organization to represent the SW/SE area with the developer. A subcommittee will work on a strategy for this organization, and will be presented to the community as soon as it is developed.

A key component of the Community Participation Plan is PDA's promise to contribute \$150,000 for year-round training, or some other program that will benefit the community. A subcommittee is therefore working on a description of the neighborhoods needs.



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DONALD & JEAN MACDONALD RESIGN

Donald Macdonald, long time member of the Board of the Southwest Assembly will be going to Korea on a Fulbright Grant this month, to be gone for at least the next year. Korea is his area of study and expertise and he has spent many years there. Professor Macdonald is a political scientist and has been teaching in the Asian Studies Program at Georgetown University. Recently, Professor Macdonald was awarded the honor of Professor Emeritus at Georgetown University.

Mr. Macdonald has been a key stabilizing member and keeper of the records of the Assembly and will be greatly missed for his devotion, his good advice and long association with the people of Southwest. We are happy to report that he does plan to return to Washington.

Jean Macdonald, who has been our devoted treasurer for the past few years, has also submitted her resignation. She also will be greatly missed. She has been able to get and keep the financial affairs of the assembly in good shape. She will be replaced by Lonny Murray. Mrs. Macdonald, who is a Title I reading teacher at Webb Elementary School will complete the school year here before joining her husband in Korea in June.

We are happy to report that the Macdonalds will be returning to Washington and we can be sure they will once again be participants in projects for Southwest. We wish them well on their tour.



MEAD AT AMIDON

Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Vice President Edgar Mead is really enjoying his new role. Every Wednesday he volunteers to tell exciting stories to the Kindergarten students at Amidon Elementary School. The storytelling activity is "to help widen their horizons and acquaintance with different forms of literature." Stories have included, "The Christmas Carol," "Babushka" (Russian Christmas Story) "Baber the Elephant," and "Les Pompiers" (The Fireman). Based on the enthusiasm and interest of the students, we can expect to see Edgar Mead every Wednesday bringing fun and excitement to the Kindergarten students.



YATF/CRIME & DRUG TASK FORCE TO HOLD FUNDRAISER

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Youth Activities Task Force and Crime and Drug Task Force have united in a joint effort to hold a reception as its annual fundraiser. This gala event will be held on **Thursday, April 12, 1990 at Harbour Square, 500 'N' Street, S.W. 5-8 p.m.**

A highlight of the event will be recognition of Jefferson Junior High School Principal Vera M. White and Judge Reginald Walton. Music will also be featured.

This is an opportunity to support two worthwhile community endeavors. Please make minimum contributions of \$25 payable to the Southwest Community Council, Inc. For information, please call Walter Brooks at 554-4528.

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Van Ness Elementary School and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have been Partners in Education since June, 1984. Before the official partnership began, the school utilized the services of Operation Rescue Volunteers to assist students in the areas of reading and math. Many were USDA employees who helped formalize the relationship. Over the years the partnership has grown to include additional projects and support with students benefiting from many field trips (the White House, the Beltsville Agriculture Center, Arbor Day programs, African American history programs, and "Take Pride in America" programs).

This year the cooperative effort continues with almost 60 tutors for students involved in math, reading and computer awareness. Many are into their fourth and fifth years of volunteering. Beverly Harrod's third grade and Mae Williams' second grade classes received weekly courses in Spanish from tutors, Phil Villa-Lobos, Berlanda Bace and Beatriz Rodrigues. This activity provided an opportunity for foreign language experience for enthusiastic students. The Van Ness students are also benefiting from the USDA partnership and look forward to Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter and Mrs. Jeanne Yeutter's support to expand the effort.

CONGRATULATIONS!

JEFFERSON J.H. MATH COUNTS TEAM

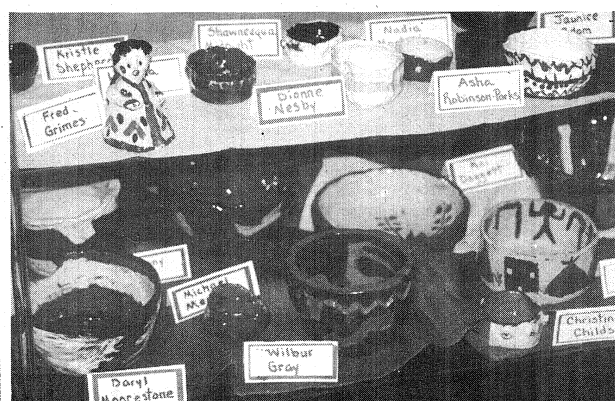
Jefferson Junior High School Math Counts Team is the 1990 Nationwide Junior High Math Program Champions. Lien Lee made 1st Place in the Individual Competition and Ismeal Alvarez made 3rd Place in the Individual Competition as well. Other team members include Kristal O'Bryant and Brian Pitts. Coaches for the math team are Dr. A. Farrah, Mr. J. Choppin and Mr. J. Coleman.

Oratorical Essay Contest

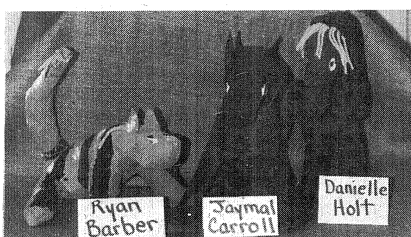
Yolanda Coleman, a student at Jefferson J.H.S. won the Velma B. Johnson Oratorical Contest. Her coach is R. Hicks.

We're proud of you Jefferson J.H.S. Keep up the good work.!

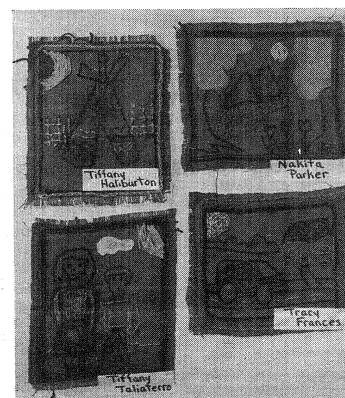
AMIDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ART



POTTERY - ALL GRADES

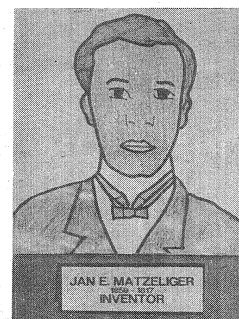
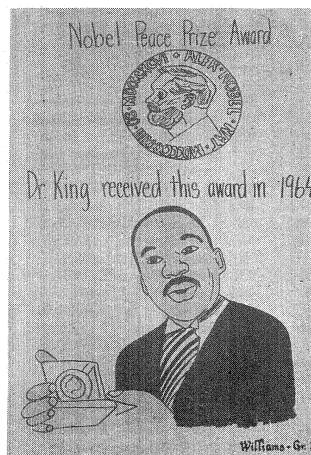


PAPIER MACHE - 5TH GRADE

GAZMYN MCCLAIN - 4TH GRADE
KEVIN WASHINGTON 4TH GRADE

STITCHERY - 4TH GRADE

BOWEN E.S. ART



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am very happy to welcome Rick Leggett as our new editor of *The Southwester*. Mr. Leggett has been a hard working member of our scholarship committee for three years and has involved himself in all the affairs of the Assembly.

Mr. Leggett comes to the job of editor with a good deal of prior experience. He has been the editor of the Board of Education's publication *The Board Report*, for the past four years. He also is manager/sales representative at Earl Howard Studios, and to Mr. Howard we owe special thanks for allowing Mr. Leggett time to serve our community.

As we welcome a new editor I do want to express the thanks of the whole community to Dale MacIver who carried practically the whole editorial burden for more than 12 years. I am glad to report that he is going to continue as Senior Staff Advisor and some of the people he had recruited will continue to work with *The Southwester*. The format of the paper and the features will be different, but the goal of reaching out is still the same.

Dale will not be forgotten. There he was with his camera at every event. The paper brought us all the new developments and also at times brought us memories of the past. Our success was marked by story and picture. We did not read about any of the disappointments or negative things about our community. His reign as editor has been memorable.

The Southwester is a project the whole community enjoys. When I see the pictures in it I imagine mothers and fathers all over the area cutting out pictures of their children to save in their scrap books. And what would we do for publicity and news about our area if we didn't have our own newspaper?

This new editorial column is a great idea to share ideas and hopes for our community. I hope many people will take the time to write the editor. You can see your ideas in print in *The Southwester*!

My hopes for *The Southwester* are that we will continue to enlarge the numbers of people who participate in activities which benefit us all. By working and planning together we can develop the feeling of community which the older residents remember as being a part of the old Southwest. When you talk to our senior residents about how it was, they remember that "we were one community, black and white, old and young." Old timers still live here -- but we also have loads of newer people. Many people are working on committees and projects for one or more of the many projects our residents have dreamed up to make our community better. There is still room for you.

Margaret Feldman
President, Southwest Assembly

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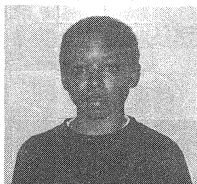
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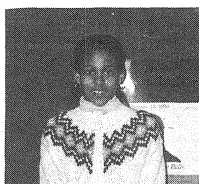
QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What Afro-American person do you admire the most?



DOUGLAS DAVIS
6th Grader, Vann Ness
Elementary School

"Stevie Wonder, because he didn't feel sorry for himself, and he set goals."



TRACI CURRI
6th Grader, Amidon
Elementary School

"Barbara Jordan, because she had to face the double prejudice of being black and a woman...she is a very strong person to get where she has today."



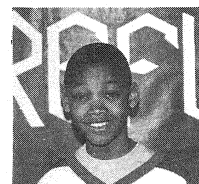
BEVERLY HARROD
3rd Grader, Vann Ness
Elementary School

"Doug Wilder because his margin of winning did not bother him, and his role as Governor of Virginia will set a precedent for others."



JINA JOHNSON
6th Grader, Amidon
Elementary School

"Leotyne Price, because I like her music, and she was able to do what she thought she was put on this earth to do."



JASON AMERSON
6th Grader, Bowen
Elementary School

"Mr. Willis Williams, a U.S. Navy Engineer, who volunteered to come in and help us."



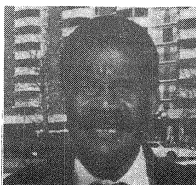
CEDRIC LYLES
6th Grader, Bowen
Elementary School

"Thurgood Marshall, for his work with the Supreme Court Justice, and still working at the age of 92."



BRENDA B. MAXWELL
6th Grade, Teacher
Vann Ness Elementary
School

"Rosa Parks, for her helpful, kind, thoughtful nature."



CHARLES SMITH
"Who comes to my mind first of all is Dr. Charles Drew...a lot of people don't realize or recognize the significance of Dr. Drew's contribution to science and medical technology, specifically blood plasma."



MS. CASSANDRA BUTLER
Principal, Vann Ness
Elementary School

"Dr. Martha Dawson, Vice President of Hampton University saw something in me, that maybe I didn't see in myself."



LORRAINE RILEY
"Dr. Niam Akbar, who is a Psychologist and Historian. He is also a dynamic lecturer on African/African American history. I love him because he put a lot of things in perspective for me...he typifies the ideal Blackman!"

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SWNA DRUG & TASK FORCE COORDINATORS TO SPEAK AT DEPT. OF JUSTICE

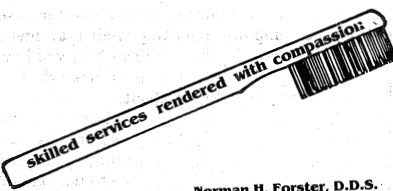
Atkins Warren, SWNA Drug & Task Force Chairman, advises that the coordinators of the various sub-committees for the Task Force would make presentations regarding the objectives of their respective sub-committee on Wednesday, February 14, 1990 at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Dick Thornburg, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, announced that during the month of February 1990, the Dept. of Justice would sponsor and present programs, exhibits, and activities to increase the awareness of Justice employees of the contributions Black Americans have made to our nation.

The Dept. of Justice invited the Task Force participation because it was felt that the concerned citizens, who are Task Force members, would present a challenge to the Black community as it addresses the drug and crime problems facing our nation today. A Dept. of Justice official added, "the Task Force involvement shows what a community can do when it unites as a team to make a difference."

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SWNA/CRIME & DRUG TASK FORCE DEVELOPS ACTION PLANS

Subcommittee coordinators for the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) Drug Program met on February 3rd at the Friendship Baptist Church to develop specific action plans for the Task Force. In attendance were Rev. Rena Karema-Smart, Yvonne Price, Calvin Jackson, and Atkins Warren, Chairperson of the Task Force.

The group reviewed discussions from previous meetings and agreed to develop and implement the following action plans:

1. identify sources of funding for a long term drug treatment facility;
2. establish a piggy-back referral system for immediate substance abuse treatment;
3. establish more church-based support groups for recovering substance abusers;
4. impact national public policy and data collection;

Current activities being conducted by Task Force members include a Substance Abuse Prevention Education/Awareness Program at the Friendship Baptist Church and an Overcomers Outreach program at the St. Augustine Church. Call Rev. Rena Karema-Smart on 554-3222 or Mr. Calvin Jackson on 773-6314 for more information concerning these programs and other initiative progress.

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Adult Services Librarian, Carolyn McCormick has been selected as secretary of the Youth Activities Task Force (YATF). Ms. McCormick, a member of the Southwest Library team for 2 years, brings with her many years of working with young people.

Ms. McCormick has been actively involved with Youth at Risk, Renaissance Boy Scouts, and has been instrumental in getting young people involved in the health services field.

"I'm going to give it my best, and do everything I can to enhance the YATF," stated Ms. McCormick.

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Satellites are now part of the Coast Guard Public Affairs electronic media arsenal. Video news releases (VNR's) -- a high-tech version of a press release, provides television stations with both information and pictures for local news stories.

Video news releases are produced in-house by PA1 Larry Lawrence and Sonte DuCote, a Southwest resident and a student at Howard University. They travel on location to shoot footage and conduct interviews. Back at headquarters the footage is edited into a complete package which not only accentuates Coast Guard activities, but also provides the television stations with local telephone numbers of Coast Guard units.

Boating While Intoxicated and the Coast Guard Bicentennial were stories produced for video news release. Major markets like Los Angeles and Philadelphia used these video news releases. This enabled the Coast Guard to reach a confirmed audience of almost five million people.

CREDIT IMPROVEMENT FORMS AVAILABLE

Calvin McCants, Preseident of American Brain Trust, prepared four forms to give you step-by-step directions to repair or enhance your credit. One form gives you the "Big Eight" elements of a positive credit profile, which includes a positive up-to-date credit report. Another form gives you a sample letter to request a credit report from the company which keeps track of your credit. A third form is a sample letter to send to the company disputing their statement of your record. The fourth form tells you how to insert good credit experience that the company never knew about.

Since Mr. McCants said many records are in error, taking advantage of these forms and correcting or improving your credit standing is a very good thing to do. To buy a house or car, or to get a business loan you need good credit.

The forms are available to you. Call Margaret Feldman at 554-0242 to obtain copies of these forms. Call soon.

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ARTS

STAND-UP TRAGEDY AT ARENA STAGE

Written by Bill Cain and directed by Max Mayer, *Stand-Up Tragedy* hits hard in a succession of blows made up of earthy words, insistent music, fast dance -- and finally, brutal bullets. It is a tragedy -- not only a play, but a true depiction of what goes on, right now, in those places where cruel things happen to our people, but especially, the poor and minority people.

Stand-Up Tragedy is honest, real and truthful. The teenage students in the play attend a mission school with a priest as principal, and male teachers who appear to be just as cynical as they are.

One teacher, Tom, perceptively played by David Marks, is determined to save Hispanic lad, Lee Cortez, moodily and desperately portrayed by Luis Ramos. Lee has artistic talent, but comes from a dysfunctional family. His mother is an alcoholic, his brother is addicted to drugs, and brutally abuses everyone in the family. Luis and other cast members speak, act and dance these two unseen characters. Once convinced of the boy's problems, Tom struggles to save him.

We endure a year with the group, experiencing through rap dialogue, break dancing and eerie lighting, doomed efforts to teach, learn, rescue and to achieve some dignity. Lee lives for a while with Tom, and on Thanksgiving even visits his home and sees what a real family environment can be like. But it is too much for the young teacher. He decides to go to law school, but doesn't.

In the spring some things begin to work. Lee applies to art school, and everyone, except poor, angry Henry, who is suspended for breaking into a teacher's home, graduates.

Then, after joyful singing and dancing of teachers and students, everything disintegrates. The graduation joy is built on quicksand, anyway, since Lee's family was destroyed in order to rescue him. His brother re-enters the picture and all is over.

There are women in this predominately male play, but no female actresses. Women are portrayed characters.

Stand-Up Tragedy is strange, but convincing. See it!

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Cast of *Stand-Up Tragedy*

Arena Stage Presents a Dynamic Educational Series

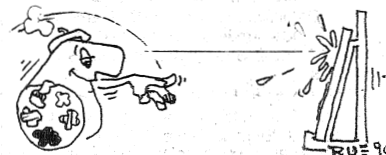
"The Mis-Education of America's Youth," a symposium in celebration of Black History Month as part of the Arena Stage's "Signature Series" in conjunction with the current production, "Stand-Up Tragedy," promoted the themes of the multicultural Washington community.

This event, hosted by Annette Miller, Arena's Community Outreach Associate, offered Southwest and Washington area residents the opportunity to hear from symposium panelists, Jennifer Nelson (moderator), associate director of the Living Stage Company and assistant director of "Stand-Up Tragedy," Tom Griffin, a teacher who inspired the main character in "Stand-Up Tragedy," Robert Alexander, founder/director of the Living Stage Theatre Company, Edna Pearson, instructional supervisor from the D.C. Public Schools, and Maria Tukeva, principal, Bell Multicultural High School in Washington.

Panelists shared their views on the current status quo of education of America's youth and were questioned by audience members about their experiences and philosophies. According to Alexander, "It's our responsibility to teach. We don't need more physical education, it's emotional education. Where do we fail? We fail to be compassionate and loving. It's the responsibility of every adult to volunteer to interact with our young."

Tukeva indicated that we cannot merely limit education to basic academic curriculum. We must also address personal and career needs for young people. "Use those young people from other countries as a vehicle for learning in a living social studies environment." Griffin spoke of his earlier and diverse experiences as a teacher and urged the importance of family involvement with kids today. Pearson emphasized the importance for all youngsters of ethnic diversity to learn from other diverse cultures and not simply concentrate on their own.

The program design steers people to think about how the American educational system is failing all of our people. "History is distorted and reinforces stereotypical images of non-white people. As it stands now, the educational system ignores the contributions of non-European nations. Instead of teaching an appreciation of the contributions of all people, it focuses on a select and narrow slice of humanity," cites Miller. As a result, she says, the skills and talents of most students of color languish for lack of concrete historical models.



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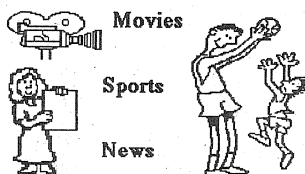
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by Hattie Helena Small

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Like Jesus, you gave your life
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Oh Martin, we will never forget
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Oh Martin, Oh Martin, Oh Martin
Like Jesus, you cared enough for us
You cared enough to give your life!

We shall never, never, never, forget
You cared enough to give your life
We shall never, never, never forget
How you died that we might be free

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Temple Micah announces a recital of songs to be performed by soprano Ilana Boin on Saturday evening, February 24th at eight o'clock.

The program will include Cantorial selections, Yiddish songs, and songs and arias of Mahler, Copeland, Verdi, and Massenet. Ms. Boin will be accompanied by Teddy Klaus and George Peachey on piano, and Linda Crisafulli on flute.

Ilana Boin has sung as soloist and with choirs at various Washington area congregations. The public is invited to attend this recital, which will take place at Temple Micah, 600 M St., S.W.

For further information please contact Vivian Liebenau, at 241-8239.

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Presbyterian

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Rev. Jeanne MacKenzie, Pastor

Sundays - 11 am Service and Church School

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PASTORS CORNER
GOD'S ANGELS NEED
NO WINGS

By William H. Smith, Pastor
Riverside Baptist Church

Have you ever met an angel? I suspect you have. I know I certainly have! A few years ago our church in San Francisco was helping a woman from out of town by allowing her to stay in a church-owned apartment while she visited her child who was getting specialized treatment in a nearby university hospital. In addition to her other problems she had car trouble on Sunday morning. She came to me during the service to ask if I or someone from the congregation could go with her and tow her car back to the church parking lot. I offered her money to pay for the towing and explained that I simply could not get away at that precise moment. I talked to some of our deacons. None of them were willing to use their car to make the tow, but all agreed to pay for the service. She refused our offer of money, "That costs too much," was all she said. I went on to the service a little more than frustrated at her response.

I heard no more from her on Sunday. The next morning as I walked through the parking lot to the church I saw her VW bug jacked up and undergoing repairs by two men. Both were middle-aged. One was tall and thin, the other short, and stocky. I introduced myself and explained how I had wanted to help but couldn't get away. They replied, "No problem. We were just going fishing today anyway." They worked all day. I passed by them several times. They giggled and laughed like children. They were helping someone in distress and having a great time doing it. These two helpers disappeared by the end of the day. I discovered nothing about them. I'm sure I could have learned all I wanted to know; they were in no way secretive, but I preferred to remember them with a touch of mystery. I always think of them as two angels, two guardian angels who appeared to help a mother and child in distress.

Our Southwest Community has a number of angels at work. Each Tuesday night a group of them meet at Riverside to tutor boys and girls. They share a meal, study together, sing a song and disappear. Ho, they do reappear from time to time during the week to watch a school play or take a child to the movies. These angels move in and out of a child's life at just the needed moment to provide a nudge in the right direction.

I'm sure you've seen angels at work, too. There are great and serious troubles all around, but I am encouraged and hopeful. God is sending help. C. Westermann wrote *God's Angels Need No Wings*, but I really don't need to read the book; I've seen those wingless angels at work, and I am grateful for them.

RIVERSIDE

Baptist Church
Seventh Street at Maine Ave., S.W.

Church Office 554-4330

Sunday School 9:45

Worship Service 11:00

A Place
Where You Can Belong



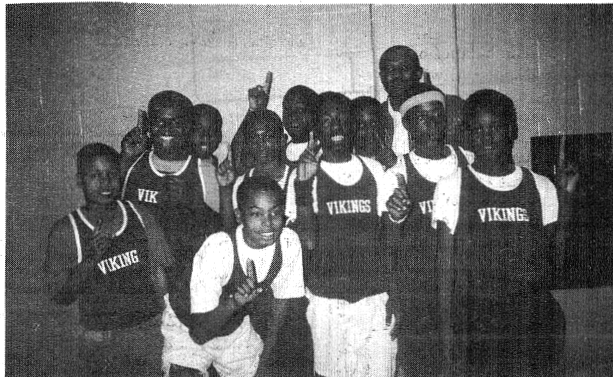
S.W. Neighborhood Alumni Association 2nd Annual Awards Program At Greenleaf/Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center



Humanitarian Awards presented to Howard R. Stone by former Ohio State All American football quarterback Cornelius Greene.



Hall of Fame Award recipient Coach Paul Woodward, Acting Director of D.C. Department of Recreation.



CLUB 4 Twelve-and-under Boys Basketball Team

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Front : Donta Hilton

Front row left to right: Kevin Evans, Jeffery Brawner, Kevin Roach, Franklin Dorn, Kareem Roach

Back Row left to right: Jamar Canty, DeVaughn Holt, Andre Johnson, Tracy Fauntroy

Coach in back: A.E. Hudgens

Not Shown: Damien Bannister, Antowon Smith, Matthew Fairley, Anthony Diggs, Carlos Parry, Gary Brown, Cary Brown, Terrence Brown

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CLUB #4 TEAM SHOOTS TO REPEAT CITY CHAMPIONSHIP

After six games and five victories, Club #4's 10 and under basketball team is on its way to another city championship.

This team has many leaders, starting with 5 foot Jamar Canty, who is averaging 8 points, 8 rebounds and 4 assists per game.

DeVaughn Holt is leading the league in scoring with a 21 point average, he is the only senior.

Other super players are; Franklin Dorn, Tracy Fauntroy, Andre Johnson, Damien Bannister, Jeffery Brawner, Kareem Roach and Kevin Roach.



CLUB 4 Ten-and-under

Front: Jelani Johnson

Left to right: Demetrius Venable, Antonio Gamble, Robert Hagood, Marlon Brown, Adrian Wade, Preston Thomas, Kenneth Brown, Samuel Marbury, Daquan Hooks

In back: Coach A.E. Hudgens

Not Shown: Joey Simmons, Lawrence Davis

12 YEAR OLDS HOPE FOR VICTORY

With the playoff tournament approaching, Club #4's 12-and-under boys basketball team has won recent games by 20 or more points.

This team is lead on offense by Jelani Johnson and Preston Thomas who both are averaging 15 points.

The defense has shown signs of becoming solid, but must mature before the playoffs to win in the tournament.

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FEDERAL/LOCAL

OPC Asks PSC To Deny PEPCO's \$33.4 Million Rate Increase

The Office of the People's Counsel for the District of Columbia has asked the Public Service Commission to reject a \$33.4 million increase in electric rates and instead to reduce rates by \$13.5 million.

In testimony filed with the Commission, on January 10, OPC also asked the Commission to deny Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO), a \$1.7 million surcharge for pilot conservation programs. The office claims PEPCO's revenue requirement is "excessive" and would produce "unfair and unreasonable rates" for District utility payers. "PEPCO must not be permitted to burden ratepayers in this manner," People's Counsel Frederick D. Dorsey stated.

OPC's analysis for the test year ending December 31, 1989 found that PEPCO has "excess revenue." In analyzing PEPCO's operations, OPC discovered some highly questionable real estate deals involving millions of dollars in costs to District utility ratepayers. Specifically, OPC is questioning PEPCO's so called "non-utility real estate" transfer practices involving Potomac Capital Investment Corporation, an unregulated subsidiary.

In particular, OPC found that PEPCO had transferred its Buzzard Point property to PCI in October 1987 to book value. The parcel, acquired by the company between 1913 and 1939 for \$2.6 million, was valued at approximately \$22 million in a 1983 appraisal commissioned by PEPCO. "The property's 1983 appraised value would have garnered a \$5.8 million gain for District operations alone," according to OPC.

OPC claims the property in effect was given to PCI with no consideration accruing to the benefit of D.C. taxpayers. "These transactions are unconscionable. D.C. ratepayers in all likelihood have paid a return on portions of this property for over 75 years and apparently are still doing so," stated Dorsey.

For Southwest and Southeast residents information, the Office of the People's Counsel is a D.C. government agency which represents utility ratepayers before the Public Service Commission and other bodies, as appropriate.

METRO GREEN LINE ON SCHEDULE

Assembly Board Member Edgar Mead has been attending meetings of the Washington Metro Transit Board and agrees with the American Public Transit Association (APTA) that Washington is well served by its local and suburban transit. In fact, Metro won APTA's highest award the year before last. Much business of the Washington Metro Transit Board involves approval of contracts for oil, grease, electrical parts, cleaning, and so forth.

Volume is steadily picking up on the Metro Rail lines, and thanks to increased parking spaces, will probably continue. There are 2,300 parking spaces at Huntington, 2,000 at Landover, 2,000 at New Carrollton, and Shady Grove offers 3,000 parking spaces. The charge for most of these spaces is \$2 per day. Yet unless a commuter parks before 7:30 a.m., all spaces may be taken, obliging many to drive their cars into the gridlocked downtown area.

The new Green Line appears to be on schedule, and the first portion north of the Mall is to open in early 1991. The balance of the line (Branch Avenue and Glenmont) will be complete within a year.

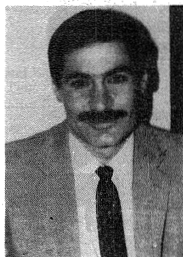
One concern however, is that the Green Line will serve low density areas, so unless new traffic sources and large parking areas at the terminal appear, the Green Line may easily turn out to be the least successful of the Metro Rail operations. A worse case scenario would allow short trains to run at longer intervals.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS GAINS OF PAST, GOALS OF FUTURE

A deep respect for the past and great expectations for the future underscored the proceedings of the Sixth Annual Southwest Community-Wide Black History Program, held on Tuesday, February 13, 1990 at 7:00 p.m. at Jefferson Junior High School.

The theme for this year's program, "The Father of Black history: Carter G. Woodson, A Living Legacy," resounded throughout the proceedings of the entire evening. Each speaker touched upon Dr. Woodson's realization of the uniqueness of Black history, and his efforts to designate a week, (now extended to an entire month), when all Americans stop to reflect upon the many contributions of Black Americans that are woven throughout the mosaic of American history.

The inspiring invocation and benediction for the program were delivered by Rev. Dr. Lorenzo Ford, Assistant Pastor of Friendship Baptist Church. Friendship's Mass Choir, conducted by Choir Director Wanda Scales, closed out the evening with their stirring performance of "In That Great Get'n Up Morning."

Master of Ceremonies was Kwame Holman, reporter/producer for WETA-Channel 26's *MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour*. Welcoming remarks were made by Margaret Feldman, President of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, R. David Hall, Ward 2 D.C. School Board Representative, and Ward 2 D.C. City Councilman John A. Wilson.

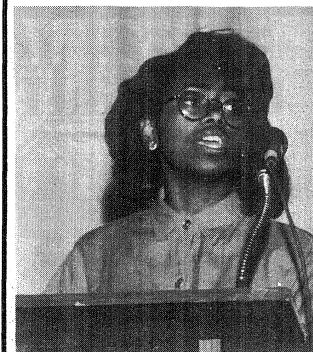
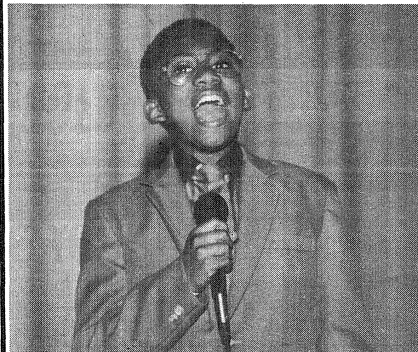
Carmen E. Turner, General Manager of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, was scheduled to be the evening's Guest Speaker, but unforeseen circumstances prevented her from attending. A letter from Mrs. Turner was read by Mr. Holman, apologizing for her absence and extending her greetings to those in attendance.

METRO was well-represented, however, by Mr. Leroy Bailey, Assistant General Manager of Bus Service for the Authority. Mr. Bailey gave a most informative speech about the origin of Black History and the contributions of Dr. Woodson. He also accepted a plaque on behalf of Mrs. Turner, presented by Southwest Neighborhood Assembly President Margaret Feldman.

The Southwest schools were strongly represented in the Black History Month Program, demonstrating once again the outstanding crop of talent and potential leaders that we have in our community. Yolanda Coleman, an 8th grader at Jefferson J.H.S. and budding orator, delivered an eloquent speech on the theme of Black history, and was an example of why Jefferson J.H.S. is a "school of distinction."

Jefferson's J.H. Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of John Kordalewski, also "wowed" the audience with three jazz selections that sounded more like the work of professional musicians than junior high school students.

Photos from the Sixth Annual Community-Wide Black History Program



PHOTOS BY EARL HOWARD STUDIOS

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE WORLD BANK